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Bundeswehr Verification Center

SALW Guide

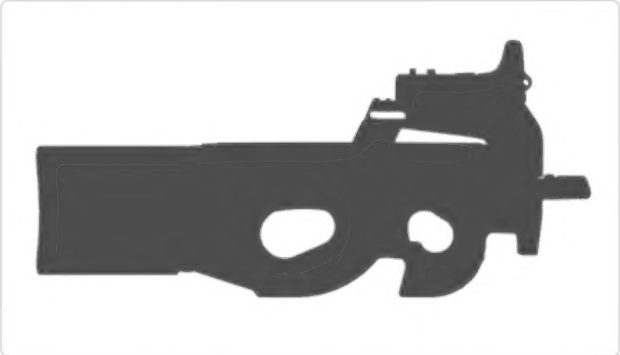
Global distribution and visual identification

FN P90

Fact sheet

https://salw-guide.bicc.de

FN P90



A personal defense weapon (often abbreviated PDW) is a compact semi-automatic or fully-automatic firearm similar in most respects to a submachine gun, but firing an (often proprietary) armor-piercing round, giving a PDW better range, accuracy and armor-penetrating capability than submachine guns, which fire pistol-caliber cartridges.The P90 was designed to have a length no greater than a man's shoulder width, in order to be easily carried and maneuvered in tight spaces, such as the inside of an armored vehicle. To achieve this, the weapon's design utilizes the unconventional bullpup configuration, in which the action and magazine are located behind the trigger and alongside the shooter's face, so that there is no wasted space in the stock. The P90's dimensions are also minimized by its unique horizontally mounted feeding system, wherein the box magazine sits parallel to the barrel on top of the weapon's frame. Overall, the weapon has an extremely compact profile.

Technical Specifications

Category	*Submachine Guns*
Operating system	Straight blowback, closed bolt
Cartridge	FN 5.7 x 28mm
Length	500 mm
Feeding	n/a

Global distribution map

The data on global distribution and production is provided primarily by the *BwVC*[1], but also from national and regional focal points on SALW control; data published by think tanks, international organizations and experts; and/or data provided by individual researchers on SALW. It is not exhaustive. If you would like to add to or amend the data, please use the website's feedback function.

1. Bundeswehr Verification Center

Distribution

Global distribution list

The **FN P90** is found in **48** countries according to our data.

Argentina (ARG)		G
Austria (AUT)		G
Belgium (BEL)	▙	G
Brazil (BRA)		G
Canada (CAN)		G
Chile (CHL)		G
Cyprus (CYP)		G
Czech Republic (CZE)		G
Dominican Republic (DOM)		G
El Salvador (SLV)		G
Ethiopia (ETH)		N
France (FRA)		G
Georgia (GEO)		G

Malaysia (MYS)		G
Mauritania (MRT)		G
Mauritius (MUS)		G
Mexico (MEX)		G
Netherlands (NLD)		G
Nigeria (NGA)		G
Pakistan (PAK)		G
Papua New Guinea (PNG)		G
Peru (PER)		G
Philippines (PHL)		G
Poland (POL)		G
Portugal (PRT)		G
Romania (ROU)		G

Germany (DEU)		G
Greece (GRC)		G
Guatemala (GTM)		G
India (IND)		G
Indonesia (IDN)		G
Ireland (IRL)		G
Italy (ITA)		G
Jordan (JOR)		G
Lebanon (LBN)		G
Libya (LBY)		G N
Luxembourg (LUX)		G

Saudi Arabia (SAU)		G
Singapore (SGP)		G
Spain (ESP)		G
Suriname (SUR)		G
Taiwan (TWN)		G
Thailand (THA)		G
Trinidad and Tobago (TTO)		G
Turkey (TUR)		G
Ukraine (UKR)		G
United States (USA)		G
Venezuela (VEN)		G

Explanation of symbols

	Country of origin
	Licensed production
	Production without a licence
G	*Government*: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by Governmental agencies.
N	*Non-Government*: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by non-Governmental armed groups.
U	*Unspecified*: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is found in the country, but do not specify whether it is held by Governmental agencies or non-Governmental armed groups.

It is entirely possible to have a combination of tags beside each country. For example, if country X is tagged with a G and a U, it means that at least one source of data identifies Governmental agencies as holders of weapon type Y, and at least one other source confirms the presence of the weapon in country X without specifying who holds it.

Note: This application is a living, non-comprehensive database, relying to a great extent on active contributions (provision and/or validation of data and information) by either SALW experts from the military and international renowned think tanks or by national and regional focal points of small arms control entities.

Visual Identification

Characteristics Markings

FN P90

left view

FN P90

right view

FN P90

044/md-01-300w.png

marking details

FN P90

044/md-02-300w.png

marking details

Ammunition

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN P90**.

FN 5.7 x 28mm

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	28.83 mm
Overall length	40.5 mm

NO IMAGE

The FN 5.7×28mm is a small-caliber, high-velocity cartridge designed and manufactured by FN Herstal in Belgium. It is a bottlenecked centerfire cartridge that is somewhat similar to the .22 Hornet or .22 K-Hornet. The 5.7×28mm was developed in conjunction with the FN P90 personal defense weapon (PDW) and FN Five-seven pistol, in response to NATO requests for a replacement for the 9×19mm Parabellum cartridge. By 2006, FN's 5.7×28mm firearms—the P90 personal defense weapon and Five-seven pistol—were in service with military and police forces in over 40 nations throughout the world. In the United States, 5.7×28mm firearms are currently used by numerous law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Secret Service.

No information available.

Annex

Tagging of Sources

We believe that our Guide should be as transparent as possible without endangering the confidentiality of our sources. Rather than name the exact source for each unit of data, we have created tags so that users can at least know whether the data comes from a primary or secondary source, and by which medium it can or has been found. All incoming data is validated and then tagged by the project team at BICC before it enters our database.

Sources are tagged according to the following criteria:

1. Primary Sources:

These are presentations of facts. They are proof of an SALW event (e.g. a transfer, sighting, misuse, etc.) because the source was created at the time of the event itself. Primary sources as usually original documents such as transfer authorizations, firearms legislation, or academic journals presenting results of a study on SALW holdings in a particular country, for example. However, they can also be information offered by a person with direct knowledge of an SALW event or who has documented an SALW event at the time that it happened.

2. Secondary Sources:

These are interpretations or evaluation of facts. Secondary sources contain commentary and analysis of SALW events that are documented in primary sources.

Sources are also tagged according to the dominant medium of delivery:

A. Written - the source is based on written words.

B. Oral - the source is based on spoken words.

C. Visual - the source is based on seen events or optical images.

These criteria make our tags two-dimensional. While the process of classifying sources is a primarily subjective one, the project team at BICC has developed the following table to serve as an example of possible sources within each category.

Table: Examples of sources on SALW distribution

	Primary	Secondary

Written	• Fact books • Weapons Transfer authorizations • End-user certificates • Transcripts of interviews, legal proceedings, speeches/ presentations, meetings, conferences or symposia • Newspaper articles • Written correspondence (e.g. letters, emails, text messages, etc.) • Blogs • Peer-reviewed journal articles • Treaties, constitution, laws • Records of organizations (e.g. annual reports) • Surveys, questionnaires Etc...	• Wikipedia • Literature reviews • Training or safety manuals on gun control, ammunition, physical stockpile security management) • Minutes of meetings, conferences, symposia • Indexes (e.g. Global Militarization Index) • Newspaper articles Etc.
Oral	• Interviews with experts, including radio or telephone • Legal proceedings • Speeches or interventions by experts or national representatives in government or international meetings Etc ...	• Speeches, panel presentations, etc. on data provided by experts Etc...
Visual	• Artifacts (e.g. the weapons themselves, ammunition) • Photographs of weapons, ammunition, etc. • Videos (e.g. YouTube, those recorded by mobile phone) • Television documentaries, news reports Etc ...	• PowerPoint presentations on results found by experts Etc...

Table: Example tags

Source (sample)	Type of source	Medium of delivery
IHS Jane’s Weapons Infantry (2015-2016)	primary	written
Panel discussion of weapons use of non-state armed groups	secondary	oral
Documentary on paramilitaries in Colombia	primary	visual

About the Guide

The Interactive Guide on **Small Arms and Light Weapons** is an open access tool, designed to build knowledge on how to identify different types, makes and models of commonly used SALW in organized violence; to collect data on the global and country-specific spread of these SALW; and to describe some of their visual and technical specifications.

The guide is not an exhaustive list of all SALW that are used around the world.

Global SALW control relies on, among other things, data and knowledge of the weapons themselves. Our aim is that the Guide will be used to support national reporting duties on SALW holdings; facilitate and ameliorate the collection of data on SALW; and increase general knowledge of global distribution of SALW.

The interactive Guide was developed by **BICC** in close cooperation with the **Bundeswehr Verification Center** (BwVC), and with the generous support of the *Federal Foreign Office, Germany*.

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